LEVEL ONE
PROCESSED

Soundings

NORTHWEST WASHINGTON SYNOD ELCA

NORTHWEST WASHINGTON SYNOD
5519 Phinney Avenue North
Seattle, Washington 98103-5899
(206) 783-9292

Volume 16, Number 10 December, 1998

Christmas Message
from ELCA Presiding Bishop H. George Anderson

Will Peace Ever Come To Our World?

Every day news from the Middle East raises or lowers our hopes. The peace process seems so fragile, so vulnerable to the actions of extremists on each side. We have had our hopes lifted before and then had them disappointed. Experts warn us that many difficult issues remain unresolved. And if we look at the wider world, the marks of conflict stain every inhabited continent.

In the face of this uncertainty, Christmas offers a sure word. It tells us that God's will for the world is peace, and that in Jesus Christ God has given us the means to achieve it. The angels not only sang of "peace on earth"; they also announced that a Savior had been born—One whom we would come to call the Prince of Peace.

In his life and death Jesus showed how to overcome evil. His life demonstrated that the world does not immediately embrace the good or even tolerate it. But he proved that violence can finally be defeated by love, and that God's purpose will ultimately triumph. His death and resurrection brought us the peace with God that can recreate humanity.

And so, as Christmas people, we work patiently and tirelessly for peace.

We know that it is the world's future.

"For lo! the days are hast'ning on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling
And all the world give back the son
Which now the angels sing." *

** Verse by Edmund H. Sears; "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" v. 4 Lutheran Book of Worship*

Be sure to listen to Bishop Anderson's recorded reflections by dialing 1-773-380-2930 or by using the internet at www.elca.org/ob/dial.html.

What's Inside

Page 2—Synod News
Millions For Mitch
Outreach Grants
Page 3—News and Events
Grants Available
Congregation Needed
Page 4—News and Events
First Things First
ELCA Women Name Keynote Speakers
Page 5—News/Information
Lutheran Vespers: Growing Strong
World AIDS Day
Web and Media Workshops
Page 6—Youth News
Finders Weepers, Losers Keepers
Intensive Learning at LBI
Page 7—Want Ads and More
Calling All Boomers Families of Promise
Position Filled
Page 8—Family News
Within Our Family

'Millions For Mitch'

Lutherans in the United States and Caribbean are working together to assist in immediate response and long-term recovery efforts in Central America following the devastation of Hurricane Mitch.

"Millions for Mitch" is a campaign involving millions of Lutherans in contributing millions of dollars. Hurricane Mitch killed more than 10,000 people Oct. 29-31. The Category 5 hurricane was the strongest storm in the Atlantic Ocean since Hurricane Gilbert in 1988. Damages were catastrophic, with ships lost in the Caribbean Sea and deaths caused by flooding and mud slides in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua. Millions are homeless, and hundreds of thousands are isolated.

The 5.2 million-member ELCA and the 2.6 million LC-MS are coordinating their responses through Lutheran World Relief (LWR). As a member of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), the ELCA is also responding through Action by Churches Together (ACT).

Gifts marked "Millions for Mitch" or "Hurricane Mitch" will be used for church-related relief and recovery efforts already under way. The ELCA, LC-MS, and LWR have already contributed more than $100,000 in funds and material goods. This figure includes $30,000 the ELCA has sent in initial assistance: $15,000 to The Nicaraguan Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope (ILNFE); $10,000 to ACT for work in Honduras; and $5,000 to the Augustinian Lutheran Church in Guatemala.

In the aftermath of flooding, one of the greatest concerns is disease control. Mycosis, malaria, dengue, cholera, respiratory illnesses, diarrhea and conjunctivitis are among the health risks facing the region. Malnutrition will also be a factor in the months ahead.

The committee is working with local parishes and Lutheran youth brigades to distribute emergency shelter, generic medicine and food.

Donations can be sent to:
ELCA International Disaster Response
P.O. Box 71764
Chicago, IL 60694-1764
To give by credit card call:
1-800-638-3522
Or, donations can be sent directly to LWF at:
390 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016

For updates, check out the internet at www.elca.org/dgm/disaster/mitch.html.

Division For Outreach Grants

An informational meeting on available grants from the Division for Outreach for the year 2000 has been scheduled at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 2, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 215 Mukilteo Blvd, Everett. Call 425-252-0413 for more information or directions.

Leadership Development Grants

The ELCA Initiative Team for Leadership Development will distribute grants totalling $75,000 to encourage development of leaders for church and society in the next century. Grant proposals are welcomed from congregations, coalitions, synods, agencies, and institutions of the church.

Grants will be made for three types of projects: mentoring, networking, and immersions.

Grants will be given in the amount of $1,000 to $2,000 per request and must be used during 1999/2000. Application deadline is January 1, 1999.

To request a grant applicaton contact:
The Rev. Dick Bruesehoff
ELCA
8765 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631
773-380-2872

In The City For Good

The ELCA is pleased to announce the first-year process for urban ministry grants from the *In The City for Good Fund.*

Call the NWWA Synod office for applicatons and material to determine whether your program, project, or ministry qualifies for this grant.

Applications are due by Jan. 31, 1999.

Scholarships Available

Students interested in applying for Lutheran Brotherhood scholarships, Federal Stafford Student Loans, or seminary awards/seminary sabbatical fellowships for the 1999-2000 academic year are encouraged to act soon.

The **deadline** for Lutheran Brotherhood Member Scholarships is **Jan. 15, 1999**.For more information, contact your Lutheran Brotherhood district representative or your school's financial aid office.

Please note the following dates and changes to the Bishop's Convocations:
Thursday, Jan 14
Bethel of Shoreline
Topic: Mental Illness
Thursday, May 6
Location to be announced
Topic: Preparing The Church For Tomorrow, Today.

Congregation Needed For Study

Could you help us? As part of a research project to understand how congregations encourage giving and serving among youth, Search Institute is looking for congregations that are doing exceptional work in involving youth in service or service-learning projects. We are looking for congregations that meet the following criteria:

1. The congregation offers service and/or service-learning experiences for youth throughout the year.

2. Young people are actively involved in planning and leading the service experiences.

3. There are planned, intentional opportunities for young people to reflect on and share their service experiences, allowing them to develop a better grasp of world issues, a deeper commitment to service, and a deeper understanding of their faith.

4. Young people aren't isolated in their service experiences. They have opportunities to serve alongside parents and other adults in the congregation. We are looking for congregations with enough experience in this area to be able to help us describe effective practices (what's working, what hasn't worked, recommendations for others, etc.). We would like to interview key individuals from about 15 congregations nation-wide regarding their work in involving youth in service projects. We plan to use this information to develop materials for other congregations who are interested in strengthening the giving and serving of their youth.

If you believe your congregation has information that will help us, please call Renee Vraa at 612-399-0228. Initially we will simply want to get a general idea of what your congregation has done to involve youth in service. At a later point we may follow up with more specific questions. —from Rebecca Grothe, Partner Services Coordinator, Search Institute, 800-888-7828, ext. 558.

Reaching Out To Others

An English as a Second Language (ESL) "listening post" offers an opportunity to share experiences and vision for an ESL Outreach Fellowship in your congregation. The following is the schedule for those meetings in our Synod. Contact Pastor Peter Lai at the Region 1 Office at 206-624-0093 for more information.

January 23, 1999	LBI, Issaquah
April 10, 1999	Christ the Servant, Bellingham

"First Things First"

This informative seminar is a personal management tool developed by Stephen R. Covey, author of the well known book, "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People."

Rostered folks from NWWA and SWWA synods (and others if there is room), are invited to attend this one-day seminar on **Tuesday, Jan. 26** at Luther Memorial Church in the Greenwood area of Seattle. The seminar is designed to integrate life values with personal roles to most effectively achieve personal and professional goals. By actively focusing energies on high-leverage key activities, the important goals are reached.

Rostered leaders will learn how to reduce conflict between personal and professional life and improve relations between church council and rostered leaders.

Cost is $75 for materials including lunch. This is a pilot project through LENS and the ELCA. Limited to 15 people. Please call Donene Blair at 206.783.9292 or 1.800.244.6997 to sign up.

Women of the ELCA Name Convention Keynote Speaker

Three national leaders who are acclaimed for their work on justice issues will address thousands of women at the Women of the ELCA Fourth Triennial Convention on July 8 to 11, 1999, in St. Louis.

The presenters are Myrlie Evers-Williams, widow of slain civil rights worker Medgar Evers; Frances Hesselbein, 1998 winner of the US Presidential Medal of Freedom; and former US Senator Paul Simon (D-Ill).

The keynote presenters will speak to the convention's theme, "live God's Justice," based on the Christian Bible verse Micah 6:8.

The goal of the event is "for participants to think about justice issues that affect women and children today," said Marlene Joseph, associate executive director for Women of the ELCA.

A Women of Color Gathering will precede the convention July 5 to 7 in St. Louis. The theme, "for Such a Time as This," is based on the Christian Bible verse Esther 4:13-14.

"This gathering equips women of color to network and create systems of support," said Inez Torres Davis, Women of the ELCA's director for cross-cultural programs.

Return To Early Centuries

Of the Christian Church In Asia Minor

Antioch, Tarsus, Colossae, Galatia, Ephesus, Troas.

You probably recognize these names. How would you like to visit these cities and many others with members from your congregation?

Don and JoAnn Cornell are leading an 18-day tour to those cities and many others. The tour is from April 13-30, 1999. Cost is $2,995 double, all inclusive.

Don is currently serving as interim pastor at Christ, Ferndale. Before his retirement the Cornells lived and served the church for 21 years in the Middle East. They have led many similar tours. For more information call the church at 360-384-1422 or e-mail the Cornells at donjoann@hctc.com.

Women Retreat

Women from around the Synod will be able to hear some fascinating information and be able to worship together at the NWWA Women of the ELCA retreat on Feb. 5 and 6, 1999, at Camp Brotherhood, Mount Vernon. Jennifer Johnson, ARNP, psychiatric nurse, is the guest presenter and will be sharing information on "Aging—A Spiritual Journey". For registration and more information please call 360-652-8739.

Lutheran Vespers—Special Times, Special Notes, Special Pledges

Special Times:

Two upcoming Lutheran Vespers broadcasts will air in the evening due to early Seahawks programming.

On Sunday, Nov. 22, a Lutheran Vespers Thanksgiving Special" "Going Home", will at 8:30 p.m. In this program, Walt Wangerin recalls a difficult Thanksgiving homecoming, and the way his mother's understanding made all the difference.

On Sunday, Dec. 6, the regularly scheduled program will air at 8:30 p.m. This program is called "A Quiet Chamber Kept For Thee".

Lutheran Vespers is regularly broadcast on Sundays 7:30 a.m. on KIRO 710 AM.

Special Notes:

Lutheran Vespers is still growing! The KIRO audience for Lutheran Vespers is the third largest in the country. Since February, the ELCA Chicago office has received 336 letters, which tells them that at least 336,000 people have heard the program. "This rapid growth is unprecedented," said Lutheran Vespers producer Susan Greeley. "We've never seen anything like it." The largest audience for Lutheran Vespers is in Minneapolis where the program has been on the air for 50 years. Next largest is Chicago, where the program is heard on a Christian radio statio.

We're right up there and still growing!

Special Pledges:

After the recent Lutheran Vespers telephone campagn, an informational packet was sent to every congregation in our Synod. The packet included a blue Lutheran Vespers "pledge card". These cards need to be returned to the Synod office so that the Synod staff can gauge whether or not there is support for the program. It is only through the support from the congregations that we will be able to continue to meet our contract.

Plase be sure to put your congregation's postcard in the mail—or call the Synod office to report your plans for support of Lutheran Vespers.

Thank you for your continued support.

Spirituality in a Lutheran Context

The Lutheran Center for Lay Studies of the Sno-Isle Cluster of ELCA presents a one-day workshop on *Spirituality in a Lutheran Context: Discerning the Spirits and Practicing the Faith* with Martha Stortz.

The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5, at Zion, Everett. Cost is $15, includes lunch.

Martha Stortz is professor of Historical Theology and Ethics at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Do Not Stand Idly By

"Do Not Stand Idly By..." while your neighbor's blood is at risk.

World's AIDS Day Interfaith Observance will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 1, at Temple de Hirsch Sinai in the Jaffee Room, 1511 East Pike St., on Capitol Hill in Seattle.

Doors will open at 7 p.m. to view artwork and the service will start at 7:30 p.m.

On this day let us remember the more than 30 million people worldwide who live with HIV.

Web and Media Workshops Offered

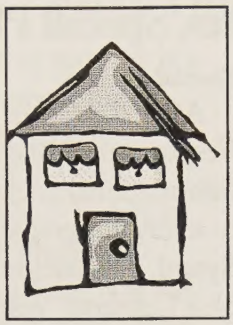
Four workshops are being offered by the NWWA Communications Committee. Workshops are scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 30, 1999, and are part of Partners for Nurture at LBI.

Sign-up now for the all-day web page development workshop from 8:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Three one-hour media workshops will also be offered.

Contact Margit Peiffle for more information at at 360-403-9870, peifflepr@aol.com or Margit Peiffle on Luther Link.

Youth Event



Would your youth group be interested in a cross cultural mission project in Mexico this coming summer?

If so, we would like to invite you to join us in an exciting adventure.

In June and July, 1999, six to eight youth groups will each take a one week turn to build two houses in Tecate, Mexico. Yes, building two 800-square foot homes using a Habitat for Humanity blue print. And, yes, it can be done!

Last summer, youth from Celebration, Puyallup, and two other congregations built a home start to finish.

There are many advantages to participating in this exciting project such as working closely with a Mexican family, prearranged board and room, the excitement of seeing a project develop, and helping others less fortunate than we are.

The overall costs are low ($500 per person for a group of 15-20) and low travel expenses.

Pastor Paul Freese at Celebration, Puyallup, is the Northern Coordinator for this project. Call 253-848-1098 for more information.

Intensive Learning at LBI

From November 30 to December 11, the two-week intensive Discovery Module takes place. Courses, offered in a compressed schedule format, include:

- Abraham in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
- St. Paul
- Roman Citizen and Traveler
- The Five Scrolls
- Christianity and the Arts
- City Encounter
- Historical Dynamics of the Christian Movement
- Conflict Resolution

There will also be two study abroad seminars that will also take place: Holy Land Study Tour and Language and Culture Acquisition (Mexico)

For more information, contact Registrar Judy Odegaard at 425-961-5516 or by e-mail at registrar@lbi.edu.

Speak-Up

Do you want to share stories about your congregation with others? *The Lutheran* is a good way for you to do that. Four times a year the Synod places an insert in the publication that focuses on activites, events, and people in our area.

Please share your ideas with Margit Peiffle at 360-403-9870, peifflepr@aol.com or Margit Peiffle on Luther Link. The next supplement will be in the April issue, with copy due Jan. 25.

Finders Weepers, Losers Keepers

Matthew 16:24-26

Registration for the Western States Youth Gathering opens on Tuesday, Dec. 1. Don't miss out—space is limited. Materials should already be in your hands.

This youth gathering will take place from June 30 to July 6, 1999, in Seattle.

Check out the information on the internet at www.wsyg.com or call 206-783-1899.

Focus On Youth and Family Ministry

Bring a "carload" to experience a "fresh-look" at Confirmation, presenting a variety of new, creative and effective approaches including: Faith Inkubators, Grace Series, and FaithStories.

The event will take place on Friday, Feb. 26, and Saturday, Feb. 27, at LBI. More information and registration material can be found in the 1998-1999 *justabouteverythingpages* or call Sue Houglum at 425-392-0400. Registration deadline is Wednesday, Feb. 10.

Church Secretary

Nativity, Renton, is looking to fill the position of Church Secretary. This part-time position will be responsible for clerical duties including: church service bulletins, correspondence, monthly newsletter, church records, and church calendar. This position will be report to the Pastor. For more information contact Pastor Dr. John Clauson: Nativity, 17707 140th Avenue SE, Renton, WA 98058 or 425-228-5464, or e-mail nativity@unidial.com.

Draumkvedet

The Early Music Guild presents *Draumkvedet, The Dream Song, A Journey Through Heaven and Hell.*

Draumkvedet, a Medieval Norwegian epic poem, will be performed by Norwegian national music award winners.

Performances will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 6, at Ballard First Lutheran, Seattle, and on Thursday, Jan. 7, at Lagerquist Hall at PLU, Tacoma. Both performances begin at 8 p.m.

Families of Promise

Susan Brook is the new coordinator of Families of Promise—the Community Connection, a program of Lutheran Social Services NW area. Susan comes to LSS with a broad range of experiences in community organizing and refugee work, globally as well as domestically.

Families of Promise is currently halfway through a three-year pilot project. Four congregations are using the family support approach in their ministries within and beyond their Lutheran congregations: St. James, Seattle; Gift of Grace, Seattle; Prince of Peace, SeaTac; and Glendale Lutheran, Glendale. Eight more congregations are currently receiving training in the program.

You can contact Susan at 206-694-5706.

Program Director/Organizers Needed

The Church Council of Greater Seattle is the recipient of a grant to begin a new "Faith-Based Initiative for High-Risk Youth." The program will offer intensive mentoring, tutoring, and employment skills training.

To begin the project the Council is in need of a full-time program director and three part-time neighborhood organizers.

For more information please contact Rachel Allen at 206-525-1213, ext. 3201.

Global Mission Board Urges Nonviolence

Violence has a serious impact on the lives of children around the world. So, the board of the ELCA Division for Global Mission voiced its support for a "Decade of Nonviolence" when it met in October.

Twenty Nobel Peace Prize Laureates have sponsored an appeal "for the children of the world" and called for a Decade of Nonviolence (2001 to 2010). The board directed the division's staff to consult with the ELCA's Division for Church in Society on finding the best ways to support the Nobel Laureates' appeal.

In other actions the board asked the ELCA Council to urge ELCA members and congregations to use the 25th anniversary of the World Hunger Appeal in 1999 to increase support for and awareness of hunger in the world.

Calling All Boomers

Calling all Single Lutheran Boomers for a Social Night on New Year's Eve. The festivities start at 7 p.m. at Denny Park, Seattle. Finger food potluck. Plenty of parking. View of Space Needle's Fireworks at midnight. Call 206-784-7117 for more information.

Within Our Family

Prayers for strength and healing for:

✞ **Bishop Bob Keller,** EWA/ID Synod, expressed appreciation for our prayers we have offered on behalf of his wife, **Betty.** They recently learned that her tumor had been dramatically reduced by 90 percent and that her bone marrow is clear of cancer cells! At this point the plan is for her to have two more chemotherapy treatments. After that further testing will be done.

✞ The family and friends of **Pastor Howard Allsdorf** who passed away on Oct. 3. He was born on Nov. 5, 1913, and attended Wittenburg College. In 1938 he graduated from Mt. Ayers Seminary, Philadelphia. After graduation Pastor Allsdorf went to Japan and India as an LCA missionary. Returning to the states he worked in the LCA board office, and then pastored in New York, Minnesota, and Indiana. He and his wife, Henrietta, retired to Bainbridge Island in 1987 and were members of Bethany, Bainbrdige Island. He is survived by his wife, Henrietta.

✞ The family and friends of **Alice Marshall,** wife of **Dr. Robert Marshall**. Dr. Marshall was the former president of the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) and former president of the LCA's Illinois Synod. She died on October 30.

Congratulations to:

✞ **Darrell Schoen,** Maritime Ministry Chaplain in Bellingham, who has recently accepted a part-time position as the Marketing Specialist for Whatcom Community College, Bellingham. His major responsibility will be to recruit students from other countries to participate in the English Language Program and other academic programs at the College. He will continue as Chaplain.

✞ **Pastor Luther Kroenk** who married **Charlotte Torvik** on Aug.1 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows in Tacoma.

Quick Notes

✞ **Pastor Mark Johnson's** words can be heard more than once. First Lutheran, Mount Vernon, has a radio ministry: every Sunday from 8 to 8:30 a.m. they broadcast the previous week's worship, minus Communion.

✞ **Louise Robertson** recently held an art show and sale to benefit the ELCA Lutheran mission churches in NWWA at Queen Anne Lutheran Church, Seattle. The sale included paintings (by Louise), cards, calendars, and prints.

Change Of Date

Did the new deadline catch you off guard? After surveying you, the readers, it was determined that a new deadline for *Soundings and The Spirit* was necessary.

Reminder: The Synod newsletters are a good way to get the word out about an event, class, or just to share news about a special person. *Soundings* is mailed to a list of more than 800 people. *The Spirit* is inserted in the *Soundings* for pastors to distribute with congregational newsletters.

Copy is due to the Synod office as follows:

√ January 1999 Issue—Due Monday, Nov. 30

√ February 1999 Issue—Due Monday, Jan. 4

Soundings

News and information of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Northwest Washington Synod
5519 Phinney Ave. N
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206-783-9833 fax
E-mail: elca.nwwa.synod@ecunet.org
Web Site: www.lutheransnw.org

The Rev. Donald Maier, Bishop
The Rev. Dr. James Moy, Assistant to the Bishop
Donene Blair, Executive Assistant
Linda Albert, Office Assistant
Margit Peiffle, Communications Specialist

A ministry partner with the Northern Work Area, Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus

SYNOD CALENDAR

December

1 Finance Committee, 7:00 pm, Prince of Peace, Shoreline
2 **Cluster Deans**, 10:00 am, Synod Office
9 Parish Ed Committee, 1:00 pm, LBI, Issaquah
10 *Praying the Liturgical Seasons*, 9:00 am, Dominican Center, Edmonds
24-25 SYNOD OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

January

1 SYNOD OFFICE CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR HOLIDAY
14 **Bishop's Convocation**, Christ, Edmonds
16 SYNOD COUNCIL
16 Catechumenate Workshop
18 SYNOD OFFICE CLOSED FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY
21 Ecumenical Commission, noon, St John, Seattle
26 "First Things First" seminar, Luther Memorial, Seattle

February

2 Finance Committee, 7:00 pm, Prince of Peace, Shoreline
7-8 **Cluster Deans Retreat**, LOMA Center for Renewal, Issaquah
15 SYNOD OFFICE CLOSED FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY
17 Ash Wednesday

March

2 Finance Committee, 7:00 pm, Prince of Peace, Shoreline
18 *Praying the Liturgical Seasons*, Dominican Center, Edmonds
20 SYNOD COUNCIL
23 Church Advocacy Day, Olympia
28 Palm Sunday
30 Chrism Mass, 11:00 am, Bethel of Shoreline

CONGREGATIONS/AGENCIES IN CALL PROCESS **V**=Vacancy
C=Calling **NV**=New Vacancy **Int**=Interim **S**=Synod Call **I**=Interviewing

Bellevue, Grace (A)	C	Wes Howell, Pastor
Bellevue, St Luke (A)	I	Tom Kidd, Pastor
Bellingham, Christ the Servant (A)	I	Gary Grafwallner, Pastor
Bellingham, Our Saviour's	Int	Chris Berry/Jean Barrington, co-Interims
Everett, Faith	Int	Gerald Hefty, Interim
Everett, Spirit of Christ	Int	Gary Dalenius, Interim
Ferndale, Christ	Int	Don Cornell, Interim
Issaquah, Shepherd of the Hills	Int	Arden Barden, Interim
Kent, Kent	Int	Don Little/Linda Milks, co-Interims
Mukilteo, Harbour Pointe	Int	Dennis Schaffert, Interim
Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor	Int	Larry Olsen, Interim
St. Matthew, Renton (A)	NV	Kirby Unti, Pastor
Seattle, Bethel Chinese	V	
Seattle, Central	Int	Eldon Olson, Interim
Seattle, NESLYA (youth minister)	V	
Seattle, Peace (A or AIM)	NV	Sheryl Biegert, Pastor
Shoreline, St. Stephen's	Int	Steve Torkko, Interim
Stanwood, Freeborn	V	

SYNOD TRANSITIONS

CALLS ACCEPTED *(SC=Synod Call)*

Linda C. Milks (SC)	Interim, Kent, Kent	11/09/98

INSTALLATIONS
None to report

ORDINATION

Janelle Aldrich-Dale	On behalf of Oregon Synod at Christ, Edmonds	09/27/97

RETIREMENTS
None to report

ANNIVERSARIES/DEDICATIONS/SPECIAL EVENTS
None to report

RESIGNATIONS
None to report

TRANSFERS IN/OUT OF SYNOD
None to report

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in America (ELCA)
Northwest Washington Synod
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December 1998

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- **Committee Chairs**
- **Church Bulletin Boards**